

I CLAIM:

1 1. A method for lifting and moving a run of shelving having a plurality of shelving units
2 placed in side-by-side relation, said method comprising:

3 positioning a frame structure about the run of shelving, said frame structure having a
4 first frame section having wheels for supporting and moving said first frame section on a
5 floor surface, a second frame section being in substantially vertically moveable assembly with
6 said first frame section and a plurality of lift elements being supported by said first frame
7 section and providing for support and substantially vertical lifting of said movable frame
8 section;

9 establishing lifting engagement of said movable frame section with the run of
10 shelving;

11 simultaneously imparting lifting actuation to said plurality of lift elements for lifting
12 of said movable frame section and the shelving engaged thereby;

13 moving said frame structure and the run of shelving supported thereby on said wheels
14 to a desired location; and

15 simultaneously imparting lowering actuation to said plurality of lift elements for
16 lowering of said second frame section and lowering of the run of shelving to the floor surface.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of lift elements are fluid energized lift
2 elements and a controllable pressurized fluid supply is in communication with each of said
3 fluid energized lift elements, said method comprising:

4 causing lifting actuation of said controllable fluid supply for simultaneous
5 communication of pressurized fluid from said controllable fluid supply to each of said fluid

energized lift elements for simultaneous expansion of each of said fluid energized lift elements for lifting of said second frame section and the shelving engaged thereby; and

when lower of the shelving is desired, causing lowering actuation of said controllable fluid supply for simultaneous bleeding of pressurized fluid from each of said fluid energized lift elements to permit lowering of said second frame section and the shelving supported thereby.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of lift elements are pneumatic pressure energized expandable and contractable lift elements and a source of pressurized gas is supported by said first frame section supply, and at least one supply manifold line extends from said source of pressurized gas and a plurality of individual gas supply lines are in communication with said supply manifold and with each of said fluid energized lift elements, said method comprising:

causing lifting actuation of said controllable source of pressurized gas supply for simultaneous communication of pressurized gas from said controllable source of pressurized gas to each of said fluid energized lift elements for simultaneous expansion of each of said pneumatic pressure energized lift elements for lifting of said second frame section and the run of shelving engaged thereby; and

when lower of the shelving is desired, causing lowering actuation of said controllable source of pressurized gas for simultaneous bleeding of pressurized gas from each of said pneumatic pressure energized lift elements to permit lowering of said second frame section and the run of shelving supported thereby.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of lift elements are pneumatic pressure
2 energized expandable and contractable flexible bladder type lift elements each having an
3 internal gas chamber and a container of pressurized gas is supported by said first frame
4 structure and has a pressure regulator for gas pressure control and control valving for
5 controllably admitting pressurized gas simultaneously to each of the expandable and
6 contractable flexible bladder type lift elements, said method comprising:

7 causing lifting actuation of said control valving for injection of pressurized gas into
8 said plurality of bladder type lift elements for simultaneous expansion of each of said
9 pneumatic bladder type pressure energized lift elements for lifting of said second frame
10 section relative to said first frame section and for lifting the run of shelving engaged by said
11 second frame section; and

12 when lowering of the run of shelving is desired, causing lowering actuation of said
13 control valving for simultaneous bleeding of pressurized gas from each of said plurality of
14 pneumatic bladder type lift elements to permit weight induced deflation thereof for lowering
15 of said second frame section relative to said first frame section and for lowering the run of
16 shelving supported thereby.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein guide assemblies provide guiding relation of said
2 second frame structure relative to said first frame structure, said method comprising:

3 during lifting and lowering movement of said second frame structure, causing guiding
4 of said second frame structure relative to said first frame structure to ensure even lifting and
5 lowering of said second frame section relative to said first frame section and for simultaneous

- 6 raising and lowering all of the shelving units making up the run of shelving supported
- 7 thereby.